

# **Lost Dutchman State Park Fireplace Ruins Wednesday, December 15, 2010**

## **Hike Description:**

This hike will travel south along the Jacob's Crosscut Trail, #58, in the Tonto National Forest, from the Siphon Draw Trailhead parking lot in Lost Dutchman State Park to the Fireplace Ruins in Monument Canyon. Jacob's Crosscut Trail traverses the western slopes of the Superstition Mountains. This affords wonderful vistas of the valley below as well as extraordinary rock formations above. We shall encounter a variety of Sonoran Desert plants such as Saguaro, Prickly Pear, Jojoba Bush, and Brittlebush to name a few. We may see a variety of reptiles including Desert Spiny Lizards, Ornate Tree Lizards and Greater Earless Lizards. The trail crosses a series of rocky washes while contouring its way south through the Superstition Foothills past the mouth of Monument Canyon. An old Forest Service sign, marked TRAIL, will indicate the turn north east towards Monument Canyon and the Fireplace Ruins. This is an easy hike on a well maintained trail until reaching the Forest Service sign marking the turn to the Fireplace Ruins. From that point there is no maintained trail and the route is very rocky. This will be an excellent opportunity for hikers to practice their GPS skills as coordinates for the Jacob's Crosscut/Monument Canyon Junction and The Fireplace Ruins will be provided. The Fireplace Ruins in Monument Canyon is an old stone chimney constructed in the early 1930s. It was part of an old stone house. Oral history reports it belonged to an early well-known American artist who came out to Arizona for his health and built a small cabin and studio at the foot of the mountain on federal land illegally. He was eventually evicted after many years.

## **The Route:**

- Siphon Draw Trailhead parking lot, Siphon Draw Trail, GPS: N 33°27.558', W 111°28.801'
- Walk Siphon Draw Trail through Forest Service boundary gate to Jacob's Crosscut Trail Junction.
- Continue on Jacob's Crosscut Trail south to the Forest Service sign marked TRAIL, GPS: N 33°25.039'; W 111°27.772'; appx. 4.4 miles. Turn north east towards Monument Canyon.
- Follow the rocky un-maintained trail to the mouth of Monument Canyon, passing a large rock cairn\* marking the turn east to The Cave, GPS: 33°25.293', W 111°27.524', continue north to the Fireplace Ruins, GPS: N33°25.419', W 111°2.502'; appx. .6 miles.

## **Elevation:**

Siphon Draw Trailhead parking lot: 2080'

Jacob's Crosscut/Monument Canyon Junction: 2170'

Fireplace Ruins: 2442'

Total Elevation Gain: 362'

## **Distance:**

5 miles one way

## **Duration:**

5 hours

## **Meeting Time:**

9:00 AM

## **Helpful Hints:**

- Pack lunch. We will picnic at the Fireplace Ruin.
- Bring enough water, 2 liters is recommended.
- Wear sturdy close-toed shoes or hiking boots.
- Stay on the trail wherever possible.
- Please uphold "Leave No Trace" practices\*\*.
- Ask lots of questions.
- Experience the beauty and mystery of the Sonoran desert!

\* Cairn: a mound of stones set up as a landmark, boundary marker, monument, or tombstone.

\*\* "Leave No Trace" [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leave\\_No\\_Trace](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leave_No_Trace)

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors